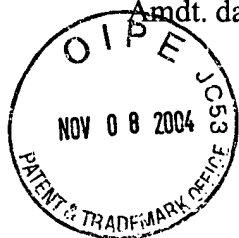


Appl. No. 10/764,103
Amdt. dated November 5, 2004

JFW



Atty. Docket: 2944 (203-4027)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Paul A. Scirica et al.

EXAMINER: Unassigned

SERIAL NO.: 10/764,103

GROUP UNIT: 3731

FILED: January 23, 2004

DATED: November 5, 2004

FOR: **SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE WITH DISSECTING TIP**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Mail Stop Amendment

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments: begin on page 8 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 5, 2004.

Dated: November 5, 2004

Christopher G. Trainor
Christopher G. Trainor